

# Youth service helps kids...even those who abuse drugs

PART II OF A SERIES  
By JACKIE KLEIN

Open rap sessions used to be part of the drug scene and Southfield Youth Services program. The scene and the program both have changed.

Southfield Youth Services started in early 1972 as Southfield Center for Drug Studies. But that didn't tell the whole story.

Parents were upbrought about the name. Besides, the program isn't exclusively for drug problems. Youth Services, headquartered in Southfield's 125-year-old Community Human Resources Building, is multifaceted, more professional and structured, said Jerry Jaster, youth counseling coordinator.

In 1974, Youth Services became a state-licensed substance abuse prevention program, said Jaster. He's been with the program since it began. Jaster, 27, is attending Wayne State University to earn a degree in social work and has received professional training in drug abuse.

"The use of chemicals has gone through a number of phases," Jaster said. "Valium and Librium are popular sedative drugs with kids and they

still smoke pot. But the highest abuse is with alcohol.

"MOTHERS AND fathers seem to pro-alcohol and opposed to other drugs. Alcohol is a depressant as well as a stimulant and it's socially acceptable.

Jaster, who has long experience dealing with outpatient drug abusers, admits he's the only non-degreed member of the youth services staff.

Kris King, who has a degree in psychology from Oakland University, is working on her master's degree. Because of her extensive field work, she's qualified to handle young adults with serious problems.

Wendy Chodoroff is a graduate of University of Michigan with a degree in social work. The part-time member of the staff is John Durbin, a counselor in Levey Middle School, who has a master's degree in guidance and counseling. Jerry Smith, a clinical psychologist, helps staff members.

"Our major goal is to continue to provide counseling assistance, information and referral data to youth adults from 13 to 17 and their parents in the Southfield-Lathrup Village area," Jaster said.



JERRY JASTER



KRIS KING

The program has broadened in five years. Jaster said. Youth services personnel have many clients in group or individual therapy.

The year-old outreach program includes operation of an unwinding room in Southfield High School and the unwinding center in Southfield-Lathrup Village.

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HIGH SCHOOL students meet with youth service counselors informally or by appointment five days a week during open lunch hour, Jaster said. "School drop-in centers act as feeders into structured youth services counseling. Many students otherwise may not have contact with us because of lack of transportation to the community building. We're also expanding the drop-in concept to middle and junior high schools.

Ms. King attributes many problems of youths, including drug abuse, to broken homes. In fact, she maintains, 80 percent of clients in the program come from split families.

"These young people are trying to get some authority and control that many parents fail to provide," she said. "If they have no identity in the home or school or with their peers, kids act out their hostilities in different ways.

"They may run away, use drugs or be about where they're going in their attempts to gain control. What they're really saying is 'Hey, parents, you've gotta change. I'm angry and I can't deal with it. How can I believe in you?'"

Youths are vulnerable and feel inadequate when they're out of control, Ms. King said, and their old coping mechanisms are no longer working.

YOUTH SERVICES goal, said Jaster, is to lend support, explore alternatives, assure young persons they're not helpless and inadequate, and restore their power to gain control.

"We'd rather have kids with drug abuse problems, for example, come to us instead of their peers," Jaster said. "We don't lose our value systems on our clients. We help them make their own decisions and clarify their priorities.

"We might ask kids if they'd rather get high and hassle with their parents or look at life another way. This is a voluntary program. We think of it as an alternative agency available for counseling or referral to other agencies which we carefully evaluate. We're the middle man to help kids cut through the red tape of the system. It's not a I win, you lose program."

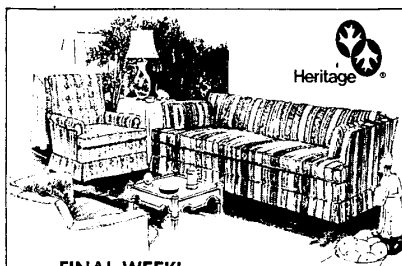
The problems of youths who come to the community building or school rooms for individual or group therapy are diverse, said Ms. King. Clients could be lonely, new kids in town or have trouble communicating their emotions or have a need to find themselves.

There's no stigma about coming to us for counseling, Ms. King said. "This isn't a program only for drug guys. We offer trust, information, outpatient treatment or therapy and room for growth with all its risks."

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## Labor coalition to hear leaders

A coalition of Jewish and black labor organizations campaigning for legislation for full employment is sponsoring a program featuring the president of both member groups.

Bayard Rustin, president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and Dr. Judah Shapiro, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance will speak at 8 p.m. on Wednesday at Temple Emanuel, 1450 Ten Mile in Oak Park.

The two groups have joined forces to support federal full employment legislation and to act on other problems which concern both the black and Jewish communities.

Rustin is a prominent labor and civil rights leader. In 1957, he coordinated a march on Washington to integrate schools. He was deputy director of the 1963 civil rights march on Washington which brought 250,000 persons to the capital. He is currently di-

rector of Black Americans in Support of Israel Committee (BASIS).

Labor Zionist Alliance National President Shapiro is an active member of Common Cause, a national citizen's lobby organization.

He is also a member of the Social Democratic Party USA. An educator, he holds professorships in several Jewish institutions of higher learning. He is a former national director of the Bnai B'rith Hillel Foundation.

Representatives of the Labor Zionist Alliance and the United Black Trade Unionists Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute met in 1976 to discuss the common interests of the two organizations and how the black and Jewish communities can work together for economic and social improvement.

The two groups worked in concert on a voter-registration drive last fall.

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